

## Poetry.

## THE OLD CANTEEN.

As I searched to-day the attic  
In the farm house old and gray,  
Where in years to me so sacred  
To the war I marched away;  
Hid amid the dust and rubbish  
Where the cobwebs intervene,  
There I found a relic precious,  
My old army tin canteen.

Tho' the cloth was worn to tatters  
And the rust was thick o'erspread;  
Tho' its strap had long since parted  
With the clasps it once had wed,  
Yet it seemed to me a treasure  
Shining bright with glowing sheen  
Lighting up the place with glory  
Where I found the old canteen.

Back it carried me in fancy  
To that day—our first review,  
When we marched adown the village  
Clad in patriotic blue,  
Guns that shone like burnished silver,  
Bright against the summer green,  
And the box and knapsack polished,  
With that army tin canteen.

Where are those that marched that  
morning,  
Elbow touching elbow true?  
Many sleep, but few are waiting  
For that silent, last review;  
Gun and knapsack long have vanished  
Mid the years that intervene,  
This alone of all remaining  
My old army tin canteen.

'Mid the march and 'mid the battle,  
It was ever near to me;  
Sick or weary, tired or wounded,  
It was true as friend could be,  
And when home at last returning  
Two old comrades neared the scene,  
One a soldier maimed and wounded,  
One the army tin canteen.

We have older grown together,  
Veterans from the soldier days,  
And a sight of it hath wakened  
Dearest memories to my gaze.  
Long will I the treasure cherish,  
And when death shall close the scene  
May they place us both together,  
Me and thee, my old canteen.

## Correspondence.

AN IDEAL, YET POSSIBLE ACRE  
OF CORN.

For the Progressive Farmer.

The writer of this article plucked from a single hill thirteen good ears; thus proving the possibility of twelve ears at a hill. This was on an acre of branch bottom where the drill furrows were 34 feet apart, and the hills distant 3 feet in the drills. Now dividing 210 feet, the length of one side of an acre, by 34, would give 60 drill furrows 210 feet in length. Dividing this length by 3 would give 70 hills to each drill, or 4,200 to the acre. This 4,200 by 4 would give us 16,800 stalks; and this by 3 would give 50,400 ears; which latter divided by 200 ears to the bushel, would give us 252 bushels as the possible yield of our ideal acre.

Now let us consider the conditions and *modus operandi* upon which we would depend for obtaining these results. The land should be of such a nature that there would be sufficient moisture under all circumstances together with natural fertility. In June or July clear it of all rocks, stumps, roots, &c., so that there may be no hindrances in the way of thorough cultivation, and so that every inch of ground may be utilized for plant growth. Examine carefully the lay of the land, and, thus having determined upon the best location for under drains, proceed to dig narrow ditches 24 to 3 feet in depth. Fill these ditches half full of pine, gum, or any kind of poles that are convenient, also using loose rock that would be in the way; cover with a layer of broom-straw, and fill up with soil, somewhat above the general surface. Lightly bull-tongue the land until all roots and other obstructions are removed, and then level with harrow. Broadcast with peas and turn under, following with a good subsoiler, and noting the direction of furrows. Just before frost, give a heavy coating of stable manure and cotton seed, turn under thoroughly, and subsoil deeply, crossing the furrows made at the time of sowing. Open up surface drains and ditches preparatory to the winter rains, and leave your ground to be mellowed by the frosts, and the plant-food, natural and supplied, to undergo the necessary changes in the great laboratory of nature. See that your land is ready for the planting as early in the spring as possible, by keeping all surplus water drained off during the winter. Try and have this mellow planting bed dry enough and warm enough to do the sowing

in March. As soon as the weather and ground will permit, broadcast 1,000 pounds of good acid phosphate, turn under shallow, and subsoil deeply, crossing direction of last furrows. Harrow, if necessary, to smoothe and make fine seed bed. Have your land so arranged as to get as long rows as possible, and straight. Avoid "turning" rows and "point" rows, but give plenty of room for turning at each end of the rows. Lay off your drill furrows with a straight shovel at least 15 inches long, and run several times in same furrow until it is clean cut; and be certain to have these furrows perfectly straight and parallel with each other. In the bottom of these furrows distribute 200, or more, pounds of ammoniated fertilizer to give the young plants a start in their first attempt after outside food. Stir the fertilizer into the soil by running the small bull-tongue in the bottom of the drill furrow. Use the best seed that can be had, selecting some of those kinds that produce two to three ears. Drop carefully every 3 feet in the drill from 15 to 20 grains, being sure that each grain falls to its place in the bottom of the furrows, and does not lodge on the sides. Cover by means of two diminutive harrow teeth plows fastened five inches apart to the foot of an ordinary plow stock causing them to strike the sides of the furrows about half way from top and bottom. When this process is completed, the field will have the appearance of 60 parallel ditches 200 feet long, partly filled with loose soil. As the corn strikes root it is deep down in the soil where there is moisture; whilst the sun has full play upon the seed bed. As soon as the corn has made its appearance above the ground, with the Thomas, or a similar harrow, go over the field, up and down the rows first, (especially if the ground is rough), and afterwards across, until all weeds and grasses are destroyed and the ground levelled for the first working with the plow. Whether there is any grass or weeds or not, this harrowing must be done to give the corn a start off, to prepare the land for future working, and to keep back the grass and weeds that must come before the next process of cultivation. This harrowing must be done as soon as the corn is up, for it cannot be done after the leaves unfold. The crop will now have a little time to grow; and if the season is warm you will see something beautiful in the way of plant growth. When the corn has reached the height of 12 to 15 inches, and there is no longer any danger from frost, worms, or crows, thin out by hand very carefully. Select four of the healthy looking stalks, not crowding each other, and pull all the others out, one at a time, by placing the toe of the boot in among the plants in the act of drawing, and afterwards pressing the earth firmly around the four that are left in each hill. This is the most tiresome part of all the work to be done; but, when carefully performed, it pays a hundred fold. Replanting never pays in any kind of land, and especially in rich lands and where the intensive system is followed. The rapidly growing plants that first take root will crowd out and destroy later plantings. Thus the necessity of plenty of seed at the first, even at the great trouble and cost of thinning. After thus thinning to a stand, run round with a long diamond-scooter going deeply and as near the plant as possible. In eight or ten days plow again, running close and deep, and then breaking out middles. Plow at least every fifteen days. When the corn is shoulder high and jointing rapidly, when running round apply 200, or more, pounds of ammoniated fertilizer near the plants, thus giving them a fresh start off for the effort of coming. At this plowing, and those that follow, dispense with the single-tree by fastening the rings of the trace chains to the clevis, and using a short stretcher about 15 inches long in front of the beam. See that the ends of this stretcher do not protrude beyond the links into which they are fastened, thus breaking or bruising the corn; and have the chains wrapped so as not to chafe the horse's thighs in turning. We must now observe closely for the last and most important step is rapidly approaching, on which depends the setting of the ears that are to make the crop. When the tassels are about ready to show themselves in a majority of the stalks in the field, with the long diamond-scooter

as before, run as close to the corn and as deep as possible, cutting effectually the roots running into the middles. Heretofore our object has been to give to the stalk and leaves a vigorous and rapid growth; but now we want this growth checked, as we are interested in the development of the ear. Were we not to check this exuberant growth of the plant, the embryo ears would be absorbed by it; and our effort at increased yields of grain rendered futile. The entire success of this, the main point, depends largely on the condition of the crop and the season. If the soil were very dry and the corn already suffering for moisture and we were to cut the roots, there would be disaster, unless rain were to come immediately. But we are supposed to have selected a piece of ground where this would never happen; otherwise we would have made provision for irrigating through our under ground drains at such times as the crop needed moisture. The method of under draining here used is cheap and temporary and only intended as a trial experiment. For permanent improvement and a continuation of this intensive method, the drains should be built on some of the most improved plans and connected with suitable irrigating reservoir. Fine results can often be obtained without underdraining and irrigation; but, with these heavy yields are reduced to a certainty. In this case the farmer has almost entire control of the season, be it wet or dry.

The most of the details in the above are founded upon actual experiments in the field where the work was done by the manual labor of the writer himself. He has had good yields himself, as have others who have used the same seed.

A yield of 214 and a fraction bushels of corn has been raised on one acre of land at Columbia, S. C.; of which there is abundant proof. The possible crop remains to be gathered by some one of our progressive farmers who will give to this subject close and intelligent observation and exhaustive experiment in the fields.  
D. C. ANDERSON.  
Monroe, N. C., Feb. 26th, 1886.

## Farm Notes.

## HORSES' MANGER.

All the refuse dust and uneaten hay should be cleaned from horses' mangers every morning. The cows will pick it over and eat whatever is of value, but it is very offensive to horses. If clover hay is fed to horses there will be a great deal of dust from it, and this in the manger is often a cause of heaves.

## DEATH FROM ROTTEN CORN.

Many Kansas cattle turned into cornfields have suddenly died. The wet weather late in the Fall rotted the corn, and also caused an immense amount of smut, which has proved poisonous to stock. It is believed that the unusual prevalence of hog cholera last Fall was due to the poor condition of the corn crop.

## ANALYSIS OF BARNYARD MANURE.

There is a great difference in the value of barnyard manure, and much of it, if analyzed, would show that the quantity usually per acre contains really less plant food than the common dressings of commercial fertilizers. But the rotting of manure in the soil helps to decompose the latter and is thus a double help.

## VALUE OF BUILDING STONE.

As timber is every year becoming scarcer in some sections the value of stone increases. In some parts of New England quarries once thought to be worthless have become quite valuable. Brick cannot entirely take the place of stone, and quarries where corner and foundation stones can be got are likely to increase in value.

## MILK FOR HENS.

The spare milk may be profitably fed to hens in Winter to encourage egg production. Milk abounds in albumen, which is an important constituent of the egg, and is thus as theoretically good to make hens lay as it has been found to be in practice. Wheat bran with milk makes the egg and also its shell, the bran abounding in phosphate of lime.

## KEEPING GOOD HORSES.

No farmer who has not tried to buy a horse can appreciate the difficulty of getting one just right in every respect. The idea that one can be picked up in a few days has to be slowly and reluctantly aban-

doned, or if one is purchased on some spurious recommendation, it is found to be almost invariably inferior to the representations made by the seller.

## UNIFORMITY IN MILKING.

Whenever possible cows should be milked by the same person daily and with little variation in the same time. If required to hold milk much longer than usual much of it is absorbed in the bag as the easier way to hold it, and this dries off the cow rapidly. Some good farmers insist on having cows milked at six o'clock night and morning throughout the year.

## A ROUGH COAT.

It is a bad sign for cows or horses at this season to have a rough coat. It shows neglect of grooming or lack of food during the Winter, and this cannot easily be made up afterwards. A rough coat is usually accompanied by vermin, which always take to animals in thin flesh. If a cow is poor in the Spring, she will not be worth much as a milker the following Summer.

## EARLY PIGS AND LAMBS.

Unless very warm quarters are provided, there is no advantage in having sows or ewes farrow very early. With careless management much loss will occur, and with ewes dropping only one lamb the profit of an entire year is sacrificed in a night. With a litter of pigs every one dropped in March can be made worth three to five dollars more in the Fall than one farrowed a month later.

## STRAIGHTENING WATER COURSES.

The natural course of any stream of water is crooked and interferes with profitable cultivation even for grass, as in these days all the mowing has to be done by horse power and machine. It is a great advantage to open a straight open ditch through a meadow where the brook runs. The fall will be better in a straight line, and if tile or stone drains are run into the open ditch from all the low places, the land thus recovered will almost certainly be the most productive on the farm.

## POTATO PARINGS.

The peelings and refuse cut away from potatoes in preparing for cooking are usually thrown in the swill barrel and fed to the pigs. This is not the best use that can be made of them, especially in Winter, when green food is scarce. If the small amount thrown out every day is saved for the horses or milch cow, it will increase the appetite and help keep the animal in better health. Fed to a cow, it will increase the milk supply, and thus feed the pig nearly or quite as well as raw potato parings would do.

## KEEPING HARNESS CLEAN.

The practice of hanging up harness on hooks back of the horses is very objectionable. If any trouble occurs in the night some of the harness will probably be found in the morning under the horses' feet soiled if not broken. Besides, just behind the horses the harness is exposed to all the orders from the manure, and this alone is sufficient to rot it rapidly. The ammonia from horse urine is especially destructive. A separate room for the harness will avoid this. It will cause some more trouble and expense, but it will pay.

## CATS AROUND BARN.

Most farmers have enough cats, as where a stock, however small, exists, they breed rapidly, and soon become too numerous. If petted at all, they learn to hang around the house in Winter and grow fat on scraps from the table. But the same cats, if driven out of doors, will find a good living in barns and granaries, where they will save many dollars' worth of grain. Barn cats are always good mousers, and they transmit this tendency to their young, so that even for house service, it is better to get a barn kitten and tame it.

## VALUE OF SKIM-MILK.

In portions of the country where butter is made in quantities it is usual to keep one cow for each sow with pigs. If she is a good cow the skim-milk she furnishes will make the framework of the growing pigs as no other feed can. With this to give the pigs a start they can be kept in thrifty condition on grass or clover with very little grain until ready to put up to fatten. In an orchard the pigs will earn their way eating fallen fruit, and thus destroying injurious insects. By this

practice the value of the pork may be nearly all credited to the milk.

## TOO LARGE LITTERS.

Sometimes sows will farrow more pigs than they have teats, and thus finding themselves in the unfortunate position which every administration occupies with regard to its office seekers. It is always advisable in selecting breeding sows to choose those with longy rangy bodies and at least thirteen or fourteen teats. There is no objection to having the fatalistic number thirteen at that table, though very likely the old superstition that some of their number will die within the year will come true. If a sow has more pigs than teats the surplus should be disposed of as soon as possible.

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